IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1-24. (Cancelled)

25.   (Currently Amended) A method in a personalization system of processing data for [[a]] portable programmed data ~~carrier~~ carriers, the method comprising:

       acquiring personalization data for ~~a cardholder~~ a cardholder in a first batch of portable programmed data carriers;

       acquiring personalization equipment characteristics for a particular type of personalization equipment to issue the portable programmed data carriers for the first batch;

       creating instructions for an internal script from the personalization data; and

       translating the internal script into ~~a data stream~~ programming control commands for the particular type of personalization equipment in accordance with the personalization equipment characteristics[[.]],

       if the first batch includes additional cardholders, then for each one of the additional cardholders in the first batch, repeating the actions of acquiring personalization data, creating instructions for the internal script, and translating the internal script; and

       determining if further data is to be processed for a subsequent batch of portable programmed data carriers, and if further data is to be processed for the subsequent batch, then acquiring personalization equipment characteristics for one of a plurality of types of personalization equipment to issue the subsequent batch;

       wherein the subsequent batch is different than the first batch.

26.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, further comprising:

       transferring the ~~data stream~~ programming control commands to the particular personalization equipment to issue the data carrier.

27.　　　(Previously Presented)　The method of claim 25, wherein creating the instructions comprises mapping the personalization data into a plurality of variables for the instructions.

28.　　　(Cancelled)

29.　　　(Currently Amended)　The method of claim [[28]] 25, wherein the internal script specifies a sequence in which the ~~program~~ programming control commands will be performed by the personalization equipment.

30.　　　(Previously Presented)　The method of claim 27, further comprising acquiring information for a card application, and wherein at least one of the plurality of variables holds data for the card application.

31.　　　(Previously Presented)　The method of claim 25, wherein the internal script includes instructions for a card operating system and further comprising:

　　　　acquiring programming control commands for a card operating system; and

　　　　translating the instructions for the card operating system into the programming control commands.

32.　　　(Previously Presented)　The method of claim 31, wherein the internal script specifies a sequence in which the programming control commands will be executed by the card operating system.

33.　　　(Previously Presented)　The method of claim 25, further comprising:

　　　　acquiring a security function; and

　　　　adding the security function to the internal script.

34.　　　(Previously Presented)　The method of claim 25, wherein the instructions for the internal script are specified in a set of database records.

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35. – 44.   (Cancelled)

45. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein the one of the plurality of types of personalization equipment to issue the subsequent batch is different than the particular type of personalization equipment to issue the first batch.

46. (New) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions to cause a computer to perform a method of processing data for portable programmed data carriers, the method comprising:

acquiring personalization data for a cardholder in a first batch of portable programmed data carriers;

acquiring personalization equipment characteristics for a particular type of personalization equipment to issue the portable programmed data carriers for the first batch;

creating instructions for an internal script from the personalization data; and

translating the internal script into programming control commands for the particular type of personalization equipment in accordance with the personalization equipment characteristics,

if the first batch includes additional cardholders, then for each one of the additional cardholders in the first batch, repeating the actions of acquiring personalization data, creating instructions for the internal script, and translating the internal script; and

determining if further data is to be processed for a subsequent batch of portable programmed data carriers, and if further data is to be processed for the subsequent batch, then acquiring personalization equipment characteristics for one of a plurality of types of personalization equipment to issue the subsequent batch;

wherein the subsequent batch is different than the first batch.

47.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 46, further comprising:

transferring the programming control commands to the particular personalization equipment to issue the data carrier.

48.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 46, wherein creating the instructions comprises mapping the personalization data into a plurality of variables for the instructions.

49.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 46, wherein the internal script specifies a sequence in which the programming control commands will be performed by the personalization equipment.

50.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 48, further comprising acquiring information for a card application, and wherein at least one of the plurality of variables holds data for the card application.

51.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 46, wherein the internal script includes instructions for a card operating system and further comprising:

       acquiring programming control commands for a card operating system; and

       translating the instructions for the card operating system into the programming control commands.

52.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 51, wherein the internal script specifies a sequence in which the programming control commands will be executed by the card operating system.

53.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 46, further comprising:

       acquiring a security function; and

       adding the security function to the internal script.

54.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 46, wherein the instructions for the internal script are specified in a set of database records.

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55. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 46 wherein the one of the plurality of types of personalization equipment to issue the subsequent batch is different than the particular type of personalization equipment to issue the first batch.